

Message Text

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41

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P R 191430Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 1279

USINFO

USIS FOR IPS AND IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ

: VICE-PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

SIGN MILLION DOLLAR AID AGREEMENT TO DESIGN AN

ABATTOIR FOR NORTHERN BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 1262 (AIDAC)

1. ON SEPTEMBER 19, VICE-PRESIDENT DR. Q.K.J. MASIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND THE HONORABLE DAVID B. BOLEN, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, SIGNED A LOAN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGNED STUDY PRELIMINARY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ABATTOIR IN NORTHERN BOTSWANA. REFTEL PROVIDED TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE, WHICH SHOULD BE SUEDE FOR VOA BROADCAST ALONG WITH EXCERPTS FROM THE FOLLING TWO TEXTS:

2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AMBASSADOR BOLEN'S REMARKS:
QUOTE. IT GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SIGN THIS BAN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS LOAN OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS REPRESENTS STILL ANOTHER CORNERSTONE IN CONTINUING EFFORTS TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS FOR ALL BATSWANA
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AND TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BOTSWANA.
AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE FUNDS PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND RE-LOANED TO THE CSWANA MEAT COMMISSION TO FINANCE THE DESIGN OF AN ABATTOIR AT KUKWE. THE DESIGN PHASE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A YEAR. WHEN FINAL DESIGN AND PLANS ARE COMPLETED, L FURTHER LOW-INTEREST LOAN TO FINANCE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE ABATTOIR WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED STATES. THE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS CALL FOR A FACILITY WITH AN ANNUAL PROCESSING CAPACITY OF 84,000 HEAD. EXTERNAL MARKETING PROSPECTS FOR PROCESSED MEAT AND BY-PRODUCTS FROM THE PROPOSED ABATTOIR ARE PARTICULARLY PROMISING.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE PROPOSED ABATTOIR WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO MARKETING FACILITIES FOR ABOUT 9,000 TRADITIONAL BATSWANA HERDSMEN OR NEARLY 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL HERDERS. THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR TRAINING OF BATSWANA TO ASSUME AN INCREASING ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ABATTOIR, THEREBY FURTHERING LOCALIZATION IN THIS KEY ARGO-INDUSTRY.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THIS LOAN AGREEMENT WE ARE SIGNING TODAY REFLECTS THE STRONG COMMITMENT OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO TURN THE HOPES OF ALL BOTSWANA FOR A BETTER LIFE INTO A LIVING REALITY. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE GREAT PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF BOTSWANA'S FARMERS. A SECOND ABATTOIR IS NEEDED BECAUSE BATSWANA FARMERS ARE GROWING MORE, BIGGER AND BETTER LIVESTOCK. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOUR FARMERS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, I WANT TO WISH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA CONTINUED SUCCESS. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE RESPONSE OF VICE-PRESIDENT MASIRE¹
17953. THE SIGNING OF THE NORTHERN ABATTOIR LOAN AGREEMENT IS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT BOTH FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RURAL AREAS AND AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE DEEP AND SINCERE FRIEND-
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SHIP BETWEEN MR TWO NATIONS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA PLACES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON ITS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, AND IS CONCERNED THAT ALL BATSWANA SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION. EVERY MOTSWANA IS A CATTLEMAN AT HEART AND THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IS, AND WILL REMAIN, THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR RURAL ECONOMY. IT IS THEREFORE A MAJOR CONCERN TO MY

GOVERNMENT THAT THE BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION BE ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE 1980'S.

AS YOU SAID, MR. AMBASSADOR, A SECOND ABATTOIR IS NEEDED BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN OUR LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY, AFTER TWO YEARS OF FAVOURABLE RAINFALL, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT AN OBLIGATION OF THE B.M.C. IS TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS OF DROUGHT YEARS. FOR THE COMMISSION TO BE FORCED TO CLOSE ITS GATES WHEN OUR GRAZING AREAS HAD BEEN PARCHED BY DROUGHT WOULD ARREST THE PACE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGHT LEAD TO A MAJOR HUMAN TRAGEDY.

WE ARE THEREFORE GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED IN THE EXPENSION OF OUR ABATTOIR FACILITIES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED AMERICAN PARTICIPATION DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT. PERHAPS ONE DAY WORLD MARKET FORCES MAY PERMIT US REPAY OUR COMPLEMENTS TO YOUR PEOPLE THROUGH THE APPEARANCE OF BOTSWANA BEEF ON SUPERMARKET SHELVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN THE MEANTIME, I SHOULD LIKE TO RECORD OUR SINCEREEST GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN THIS PROJECT. END QUOTE.

BOLEN

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